

13th December 1923]

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—“ Will the Government be pleased to call for the information, Sir ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ The Government have no objection to call for the information.”

Indigenous systems of medicine.

36 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) whether any provision was made in the budget for 1923-24 for the improvement of indigenous systems of medicine ;

(2) if the answer is in the affirmative what was the amount so allotted ;

(3) whether any amount out of the allotted sum has been spent till now or is likely to be spent before the end of March 1924 ; and

(4) if the answers are in the affirmative, in what directions the amount has been spent or is likely to be spent ?

A.—No provision was made in the budget for 1923-24 for the improvement of indigenous systems of medicine, but a sum of Rs. 1,191 was provided by re-appropriation to meet the expenditure incurred by the committee appointed to report on the subject.



37 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has considered the effect of the voting of the Council on the ‘ No-Confidence ’ motion of Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi, and

(b) if he proposes to take any action thereon ?

A.—The reply to (a) is in the affirmative and to (b) in the negative.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government whether he has placed the figures of the voting of the Council on the ‘ No-Confidence ’ Motion of Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi before His Excellency the Governor, or the Cabinet in his official capacity ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ His Excellency must have seen the figures in the proceedings of the Council meeting.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ That is not an answer to my question, Sir, if I may say so respectfully. I shall repeat my question for the hon. Member’s information. I ask him whether in his official capacity, as the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government, otherwise called the hon. the Chief Minister, he has placed the figures of the voting before His Excellency the Governor, or the Cabinet.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Will the hon. Member please tell me how it arises from the main question ? ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ I take it, Sir, that the Minister, in any action he might propose to take upon that, will be guided as the Statute clearly provides, and as the practice of this Government also shows, by the advice of His

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Excellency the Governor as well as by the opinions he receives from his colleagues in the Cabinet. Before he answers my question whether he proposes to take any action, I presume that he would have normally placed the figures of voting before His Excellency the Governor and his colleagues in the Cabinet and asked their advice. I am asking, therefore, whether he did so in that capacity."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" There was no necessity for my placing the figures before His Excellency, and so I did not."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask the hon. the Chief Minister one more question, Sir? Subsequent to the voting on the ' No-Confidence ' Motion, three capital incidents have happened in this House; first, the defeat of the Court-fees Act Amendment Bill introduced by the hon. the Law Member and seconded by the hon. the Minister for Education; secondly, the voting upon the Coimbatore water-supply scheme where the Ministry had a majority of four; and lastly, Sir, the voting yesterday on the amendment of Mr. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar to my Motion to boycott the British Empire Exhibition, where we had an elected majority of ten members on our side. I ask him whether, with his knowledge of constitutional precedents and the working of the Reforms Act in this country and the working of responsible government in other countries, he still considers he has got a working majority to occupy his position as Chief Minister."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is very clear the hon. Member has delivered a speech instead of putting a supplementary question. Secondly, assuming that it is a question, it is far beyond the range of what is understood to be a supplementary question, and, therefore, I cannot allow this to go on."

TAXATION.

Enhancement of salt tax.

38 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government authorized their representative in the Imperial Legislative Assembly, Mr. Moir, to express their approval of the enhancement of the salt tax, subject to or free of any qualifications?

A.—The Government gave no specific instructions to Mr. Moir nor did he express their approval of the enhancement of the salt tax. Individual members of the Government were, however, aware that he proposed to support the Finance Bill in the hope thereby of securing a remission of part of the Madras contribution to the Government of India, and they approved his attitude for the following among other reasons :—

The revenue anticipated in a normal year from the restoration of the salt tax to the old rate of Rs. 2-8-0 per maund was six crores of rupees. If that sum had been applied to the reduction of the Provincial contributions, the amount due to Madras would have been Rs. 268 lakhs. The salt tax payable by the Madras Presidency at Rs. 1-4-0 a maund on a normal consumption of 16 pounds per head of the population is Rs. 104 lakhs. It was considered preferable for Imperial taxation to be imposed on the whole of India than for the